s

in the unconquerable conviction that the fullness of triumph was theirs for the taking.

But that comparative handful of a fighting force had not been fighting as a forlorn hope, with its back to the wall, as it were; no, but as a victorious army, confident in its ability to advance at any moment and fretting at the unreasonable delay in the passing of the word.

When we recall the overwhelming superiority of the enemy in men and material, the perfect detail of their preparation and organization, it is indeed a miracle that any part of the British Force escaped to tell the tale. Yet all that time our brave lads believed that they were the real victors!

In the interval, that handful of warriors has multiplied until it has become a host of several millions of men, backed by material of war such as even the wildest dreams of the Prussian war lords never conceived it were possible to bring into existence.

And as to the quality of these new bodies?

Not a single military authority or war correspondent but reiterates the fact that those men who are now holding the line and every fresh reserve unit that is brought into action is splendidly maintaining the very highest traditions of the heroes of Mons, Le Cateau, The Marne and Ypres.

## Our Men Cannot Be Defeated

As we visualize that noble band of light-hearted but supremely confident young Britons who stole across the English Channel

on a certain August night of 1914, a complete analogy is established, in our mind, with that young shepherd lad of Israel, tripping out gaily from the home tents of his people armed with but a sling and "five smooth stones from the brook."

Before him is the great champion of the Philistines, the trombone - voiced Goliath with his sword and spear and shield, a mighty host behind him, laughing in their in-

toxication of brute power at the audacity of the ruddy-faced lad of God's people.

Query: If those four divisions of British lads, who will be known to all history as "The Men of Mons," were able with their slight equipment to baffle

and drive back the hordes of Germany when Germany commanded the greatest power of military paraphernalia the world has ever known, what may we not reasonably expect from the Empire's battle line as we know it to-day—the same God of Justice helping it that saved our "forlorn hope" of August, 1914?

that even if hostilities had already ceased, this shortage cannot be filled in less than two productive seasons? Do you know that in the very nature of the case, Canada and the United States, almost single-handed, must produce the necessary foodstuffs?

You know how this shortage has arisen. It has not been



"The Time and the Toil of It."

It is but a simple statement of fact to say that it is no longer humanly possible to withhold complete victory from the Allied arms if the men of the Allied forces are kept supplied with a sufficiency of food. Chemicals and minerals to provide all the armament and munitions necessary can be had on the instant; money is more abundant than it was at the beginning of the war; clothing for the vast multitude of men engaged is assured from the vast stores of textiles in existence or raw material that brought about by natural causes. Wanton destruction by the act of war, for the greater part, states the case. Submarine warfare—on belligerent and friendly neutrals alike—has been and continues to be the chief agent.

In the first seven months of 1917, nine hundred and twenty-three British merchant vessels (representing a tonnage of over 2,000,000) were sent to the bottom with cargoes of foodstuff, etc. The ocean freight of other nations destroyed in the same period is probably equal to that,

core and are moved by a consuming zeal to do all that men can do in grappling with the situation in discharging a simple debt to humanity.

But human hands can only do so much; a multitude of human hands with the assistance of horse-power can do great things; but all the skilled labor in Canada backed by the multiplied power units of every horse in the country will come far short of the necessary and possible.

The only solution, short of a miracle (which surely no man is mean enough to sit down and look for) is the employment of machinery in a big and concentrated effort to assist Nature to produce the quantity in one season which would otherwise take two or three.

Coming to the fine point, if we are to work out our part in this mighty obligation by the rule of common sense: that is in using the means which Providence has placed in our hands, there will be a universal and whole-hearted agreement on the point that the gas trac or is to save the day for the world's food supply, as the air fleet of the Allied nations will in all human probability win the war for civilization.

The old methods of man power, of ships and guns, mining and counter mining, all seem to have produced but a stalemate in front of the enemy's lines, and experts are now agreeing that if the issue is to be decided quickly and finally, it will be necessary to get behind his lines and call with his arsenals and supply centres;

hence the air fleet. Now it needs no "expert" to demonstrate that we cannot make the most or very much in one brief growing season by mere volition of flesh a n d blood; and every farmer is alive to the fact that the skilled labor problem is becoming as acute as any difficulty now facing him.

The various Allied governments are realizing this very keenly and are importing from North America many thousands of one-

man tractors to be used (in many cases by women) on the fields of the British Isles, of France and Italy and where else they can be successfully employed in preparing the land for crop.

The Destruction of Grain The destruction of grain has



Brushed, Broke and Cropped in the same season.

can be rapidly transformed into manufactured goods? But

## It Takes Time to Replenish a Depleted Food Supply

Friend of the farm, are you fully informed as to the world shortage of food? Are you aware

and the sinkings continue.

By human skill, the loss of ships can be easily and quickly made good, but it is not so with the food destroyed. Nature must do that, and Nature will not be hurried. We believe the farmers to a man are patriotic to the